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**IRANIAN OFFENSIVE
AHVAZ-KHORRAMSHAHR AREA, IRAN**

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: THE IRANIANS HAVE REOCCUPIED TERRITORY PREVIOUSLY HELD BY IRAQ WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF AHVAZ.
2. (S/D) REMARKS: IRANIAN FORCES WEST OF AHVAZ HAVE ESTABLISHED A BRIDGEHEAD ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE KARKHEH KUR RIVER. IRANIAN FORCES APPROXIMATELY 40 NM SOUTHWEST OF AHVAZ HAVE GAINED CONTROL OF A SECTION OF THE AHVAZ-KHORRAMSHAHR HIGHWAY IN THE VICINITY OF ISTGAH-E HOSEYNIYEH. (GRAPHIC 1)

AN IRANIAN INFANTRY UNIT HAS CROSSED THE KARKHEH KUR RIVER IN THE VICINITY OF 31-14N 048-23E, AND HAS ESTABLISHED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE RIVER. TANKS AND ARTILLERY ARE SUPPORTING THE INFANTRY UNIT FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF THE RIVER. OPPOSING IRAQI FORCES, CONSISTING OF AT LEAST ONE MECHANIZED INFANTRY BRIGADE, REMAIN DEPLOYED ALONG A LINE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE KARKHEH KUR RIVER EXTENDING FROM 31-31N 048-00E TO 31-20N 048-20E. IRAQI FORCES IN THIS AREA WERE ONLY PARTIALLY IMAGED.

THE IRAQIS REMAIN IN CONTROL OF THE AHVAZ-KHORRAMSHAHR HIGHWAY IN THE VICINITY OF 31-13N 048-24E, WHERE A BRIGADE-SIZE ARMOR FORCE IS DEPLOYED. A POSSIBLE AIRCRAFT HAS CRASHED NEAR THE IRAQI POSITIONS IN THIS AREA (GRAPHIC 2).

THE IRANIANS, HOWEVER, HAVE CROSSED THE KARUN RIVER AND NOW CONTROL A SECTION OF THE AHVAZ-KHORRAMSHAHR HIGHWAY WHICH EXTENDS FROM 30-52N 048-12E TO 30-47N 048-11E (GRAPHIC 3). IRANIAN FORCES DEPLOYED IN THIS AREA CONSIST OF ELEMENTS OF TWO ARMOR BRIGADES. THE STAGING AREA FOR THE IRANIAN OFFENSIVE IS OBSERVED EAST OF THE KARUN RIVER IN THE VICINITY OF 30-48N 048-30E, WHERE NUMEROUS SUPPORT VEHICLES AND BIVOUACS ARE PRESENT.

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IN ADDITION, TWO IRANIAN HELICOPTER DEPLOYMENTS ARE IN THE REAR AREA. ONE DEPLOYMENT, CONSISTING OF 15 PROBABLE AH-1 (GRAPHIC 4), IS IN THE VICINITY OF 30-55N 048-33E, AND THE SECOND DEPLOYMENT, CONSISTING OF TWO PROBABLE UH-1 AND ONE CH-47, IS IN THE VICINITY OF 30-46N 048-27E.

ELEMENTS OF ONE IRAQI ARMORED BRIGADE AND ONE IRAQI MECHANIZED INFANTRY BRIGADE STILL CONTROL THE HIGHWAY IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE IRANIAN POSITIONS. IRAQI CONTROL OF THE HIGHWAY EXTENDS FROM 30-47N 048-11E TO AT LEAST 30-40N 048-10E. LIMITS OF IMAGERY PRECLUDE A COMPLETE ASSESSMENT OF THE IRAQI DISPOSITION IN THIS AREA.

3. BE N/A , COORDINATES N/A

COMMENTS AND QUERIES REGARDING THIS BRIEFING BOARD MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE NPIC/PEG OPERATIONS OFFICER.

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